

1389. d. 27.  
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THE  
**RIGHTS of PRIESTS.**

CONSISTING OF EXTRACTS

FROM

**PIGOTT'S  
POLITICAL DICTIONARY.**

PRINTED FOR

CITIZEN LEE, AT THE BRITISH TREE OF LIBERTY

Nº 98, Berwick Street, Soho, from the Haymarket.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]



**CANDIDATES** (for Hell)—a set of men who are always determined to rule the roast, and keep the upper hand in every place they come to. These honourable and overbearing personages are no other than our respectable prelates, our dignified ecclesiastics, our bad men in black, who have ever been accustomed to assume and maintain the first places on earth, and it is but just they should be allowed the same privileges in Hell; indeed, it would be injustice to refuse it them, if we reflect but ever so little upon their conduct in this world. What do they not contrive and execute to entitle them to that great reward? Are they not the greatest enemies to **RELIGION** and **MORALITY**? Do not some, whose ambition, factions, cabals, political principles, and desperate crimes, have placed them near to the ears and hearts of kings and princes, under the specious notion of giving their children instruction, and training up their minds to virtue—do they not, I say, instead of this, drag them to hell with them, by teaching them to falsify their promises, to violate and break the most solemn oaths (like themselves), to stir up

41. 11. 6. 220.

needless wars, and persecute religion in those who profess it in all its PURITY? In short, they stick at nothing to make them worthy of honour at the Court of Lucifer.

Do not the young foppish parsons, spruce in powdered wigs, and bands clear-starched, with golden snuff-boxes in their hands, and the rich brilliant glittering on their finger, exclaim, with declamatory vehemence, from the pulpit, against the luxury of the world; and whilst the Burgundy is sparkling in their eyes and glowing in their cheeks, and the plump sleekness of their persons bespeaks them Eli's sons, fed with the fat of every offering, take on them to inspire their hearers with a love of abstinence, and rend their very lungs, to prove its indispensable necessity.

In the same class behold those pampered Bishops, whose insatiate avarice has besieged their prince with mean servilities, with flatteries and importunities, day after day, till they have at length teased him out of preferments sufficient for their luxury and covetousness. There are those who profess to lay down their lives for their flocks; but, alas! we find the sheep utterly forsaken by them, and left to hirelings, who care not a farthing about them, only with respect to the fleece of which they rob them. These are the daubers with untempered mortar, the wolves in sheep's cloathing, who pretend they are "moved by the Holy Spirit," instead of emolument; when the fact is, they are no more moved by that Spirit than Simon Magus or Alexander the Copper-smith were, whom the devil himself raised up, and sent into the vineyard. These are the sort of worthies, who talk, on Sundays, about peace, love, charity, concord, communion, love to enemies, and good-will to all men; when, perhaps, every day in the week besides, both in public and private they are drinking "damnation to the Presbyterians." They preach charity, yet by their example, inspire hatred; They pray to God for unity, peace and concord, while they themselves are using every art and machination to set the People at variance, and sow civil contentions among them, in order that they may the more easily fleece them.

Now all these things, they tell you, are done for the glory of God; but, alas! they are for the glory of Lord

Lucifer, whose loyal subjects, and whose sole right and property they are \*.

*Church* (Established)—A patent for hypocisy; the refuge of sloth, ignorance, and superstition; the corner-stone of tyranny.

*Divinity*—the Bench of Bishops uniformly voting in their capacity as legislators, against the maxims of the gospel, in support of war and extermination.

*Enemy* (natural). *National enmities* have been always produced and encouraged by kingly and priestly policy. The wolf is the *natural enemy* of the lamb; the vulture of the dove. *They must live*; but one People can never be the *natural enemy* of another; unless we consider mankind in the same savage light as the vulture and the wolf. A nation is no more than a member of that large-family, the human race, and can only flourish in proportion with the felicity and welfare of the whole. What greater absurdity can be imagined, than that a people who owe all their prosperity to commerce, that is to say, to their connections with other people, should call themselves the *natural enemy* of this or of that people, and, indeed, of every thing that is not confined within their own circle! Is it not evident that this abominable prejudice is kept up by a gang of *plunderers* and *monopolizers*, under protection of CHURCH and STATE, who find their advantage and emolument in it?

*Fast* (by proclamation)—a FARCE. The People are called on to go to church and neglect their business, while ministers are celebrating their carousals, and getting drunk at each other's houses. An impious mummary, or rather blasphemy. We are told of our national sins, and, in expiation of them, are instructed to beseech the GOD OF PEACE to bless our exterminating principles of war; to set ourselves up as a people distinct, on whom exclusively,

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\* From *THE RIGHTS OF THE DEVIL*, recommended to the pious consideration of King, Lords, and Commons, especially to the Right Reverend the Lords Spiritual, "Give the Devil his Due".—Printed for CITIZEN LEE,

he ought to shower his benign protection, and to crown our efforts, in destroying countless millions of his creatures. A court juggle; a flimsy jesuitical contrivance to inflame the public mind, and to give the clergy an opportunity of promulgating their slavish maxims, their political heresies, from the pulpit.

*Hierarchy*—an ecclesiastical establishment, whose principles are *pomp, splendour, and revenue*. Jesus Christ, the founder of our religion, on the contrary, preached *poverty, humility, equality*. Christian Bishops delight and revel in wealth and palaces, yet departing so wide from its maxims, they are insolent enough to uphold the excellence and orthodoxy of the *Christian* system.

*Holy*—the present war, the slave trade, the Pope, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Bishop Horsley.

*Lawn*—when cut into an immense pair of pudding-sleeves, denotes sanctity and wealth. The glory of the Established Church.

*Man*—a degenerate, degraded animal; the victim of kings, priests, and courtiers. Born to be free, yet content to be a slave. *Homo est duplex animal*, say the old school-men. When he is independent and free, he is the noblest work of the creation, the image of his Maker; but when he is a subject to monarchs, and duped by their ministers, he is the vilest wretch that crawls upon the earth. When he starts from oppression, and breaks his chain, he presents an awful and sublime spectacle, on which the gods might look with pleasure; but sinking into ignorance and slavery, he is the scorn, the disgrace, and the derision of every class of animated beings.

*Martyr* (a blessed)—a perjured prince, who broke his coronation oath in the most material of all points; governed without a Parliament; imprisoned his subjects for refusing to lend him money; commenced a false, villanous prosecution against a most deserving nobleman (the Earl of Bristol); reduced his people to the dreadful necessity of



taking up arms in their own defence; and, by his shameful dissimulation when he was about to be restored, left it utterly impossible to confide in his honour, his humanity, or his oath, but drove the principal officers of the adverse party, in their own defence, to sit in trial upon, and sentence him to death. Truly, a very blessed martyr! Had this prince been a private man, who would have dared to say a word in his defence?

*Mitre*—an emblem of servility, superstition and bigotry. See *Bishops*.

*Mob* (Church and King)—a species of regular militia, kept in pay by the ministry, for the protection of property against Levellers and Republicans. Some writers suppose that they are a constituted tribunal, to take a sort of summary cognizance on Jacobines, Dissenters, and Presbyterians; and that they form an important part of our happy Constitution. They were very serviceable at Birmingham, Manchester, and other places; and they are, without doubt, the most loyal portion of his Majesty's subjects.

*Orthodoxy*—the adherence to those tenets and dogmas by which the animal is enabled, by patronage, corruption, and influence, to extend his views from the country church to the summit of the cathedral.

*Parson*—formerly a respectable character, practising the mild precepts of the Christian religion, of which class a few remain. At present it denotes an animal visiting the university, subscribing to articles he has not yet digested, resigning the right of reasoning, considering the Defender of our faith at least as infallible as the Roman Bishop, and finally beholding with enraptured eye the lawn sleeves and crosier of his Holiness the Archbishop of Canterbury.

*Pluralist*—the man who, under the sacred name of religion, contrives to gain from the farmer his produce; to pillage mankind of their reason; and to plunder from the state its religious liberty.

*Requiem.* When Pitt dies, a requiem will be sung or said by the Aristocrats in all the churches in this kingdom, and in our town of Berwick upon Tweed, to intercede with his Grace the Archbishop of Hell to take his dear departed soul out of purgatory, and to request some loyal ghost or other to dip his finger in water to cool his tongue, as he must be tormented in that flame.

*Robbery.* Many People confound robbery with conquest: they contend, that it consists equally in possessing by force the property of others. But there is a prodigious difference. A robber is frequently solus in his enterprizes, or at least has but few associates: it is commonly an individual possessed of neither title nor crown. The conqueror, on the contrary, is almost always a prince or a king, and is followed by thousands of men: and the pirate who was bold enough to compare himself to ALEXANDER, regarded the difference as nothing. Yet history, both ancient and modern, proves it sufficient to render ROBBERY infamous and dishonourable, whilst CONQUEST is held both lawful and glorious.

*Sack-cloth*—is a kind of pickling shift, which is imposed on the backs of sinful heretics who impiously attempt to resist the unlimited authority of the priest, over all their thoughts, words, and actions.

*Sanctuary*—a sacred asylum, not for kings and prime ministers alone, but for rogues of all descriptions. The House of Commons is the sanctuary of Pitt, George and Co.

*Sepulchre.* See the inside of Pitt's heart.

*Superstition.* Come forward, ye reverend crew, and answer for your crimes! Ye priests of Satan, it is you that have lighted up the torch of intolerance; it is you that have set fire to the faggot; it is you that have erected the funeral pile of martyrdom! It is you that have ordained religious massacres! you have strewed the fields with human carcases, and deluged them in blood; and yet you

have done it all to the glory of God ! False religion, false morality, false reverence for idle ceremonies, and false worship, are all the children of the priesthood, and have been, are now, and I fear, ever will be adopted, by foolish and unreflecting men !

*Te Deum*—a hymn of praise and thanksgiving offered up by professed Christians to the God of Peace, in celebration of those massacres called victories. I have studied the English People thoroughly, and I verily believe they are very rapidly indeed merging towards Popery; nor should I be astonished to see the English church a real church militant, its Priests at the head of armies carrying the bloody banners of war into the churches, to be consecrated at a polluted altar, and an Auto-de-fé to crown the whole.

*Triumph.* In Christendom human massacres are solemnly celebrated in churches by way of *triumph* !!

*Unction Extreme.* In the Popish or Romish or Babylonish Church, that is the ceremony of daubing, with linseed or lamp-oil (I don't know which) the body of a dying Roman Catholic. It however is of use, as it serves very well as *basting* before they are *roasted*.

*Unenvied*--the virtues of the king, the morality of the Lords, and the independence of the Commons ; the humanity of the Bishops, the impartiality of the Judges, and the learning of the Clergy ; the generosity of the Queen, the economy of the Prince of Wales, and the courage of the Duke of York ! Honi soit qui mal y pense.

*University*—a place where ignorance is taught. This is absolutely the case at Oxford and Cambridge, where you may see monks, sensual, beastly, hoggish monks, wrapped up in all the ignorance, as well as the superstitious garb, of the 9th century ! Heu ! meminisse dolor !

*Unlighted*—as yet the torch of intolerance and the funeral pile of persecution ; but the priests are high busy in getting the faggots ready. Bigotted priests ! take care what you

are after, for the same devouring flame that is kindled for a heretic, will consume a bishop !

*Vicar*--a priest who gets a good fat benefice by deluding the People, and teaching them to look upon the king and the Clergy as objects of infallibility, awe and adoration.

*Vicerent*. In days of yore, the Monks, alias Priests, would tell you, under pain of the faggot if you denied it, that they were God's *Vicerents*. In modern days, nay even now, they would enforce the same, but—they dare not.

*Wafers*--mystical paste, which, among the Romanists, is changed by that arch-conjuror of all conjurors, the priest, into the *real* body of Christ, and given to that deluded mass of mankind, under that idea and with that impresson in one of their communions called the Eucharist. Oh! man, man! "have you eyes?"

*Wedlock*. This is that happy and enviable state, which but few can enjoy in wicked and unprincipled governments. I know not how or why it is, but upon turning to the page of history for a few years back, I find a great many evils that date their chronology from the year 1760, and this evil, among the myriad, that two thirds of our youth are in a state of celibacy at the age of twenty-nine. I need not here state to the philosopher, that government must of necessity be the root of this evil. Under a more perfect institution of government, the human male and female would enter upon the happy state of *wedlock* at sixteen and fourteen. A good king would encourage early marriage; a wicked king will discourage it, by wars, which impoverish a People, and by the natural prohibition of it, by means of heavy burthens, luxuries, and by curbing the natural noble spirit of the People, by unequal imposts, partial laws, interdictions, and restraints. What is the consequence? It drives the women to prostitution, and the men to the most abandoned and avowed concubinage. This indiscriminate commerce entails on them disease, sordidness, and misery. They are hurried to an early grave, with a total loss of constitution many years previous to their dissolution, with a total loss likewise of virtue and morality

\*\*\* The BLESSINGS of WAR will be published in a few days.

